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POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF LION SCULPTURE TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE (LIONS HALL) ROOF

Information Report

Report Number: 2018-20

Department(s): Engineering Services

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Date: April 6, 2018

In accordance with the Procedure By-law, any member of Council may make a request to the Town Clerk that this Report be placed on an upcoming Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of a possible change in the location of the metal lion sculpture that is presently in Lions Park, and to advise of the process for evaluating the feasibility and cost of the change.

Background

On March 2, 2018, Council received an email update from the Director of Engineering Services regarding the metal lion sculpture, which is currently in Lions Park. The email advised Council that, as directed by the Town's Claims and Risk Analyst, as well as the Town's insurance company and the Town's external counsel, the sculpture would be relocated to an area northwest of the existing playground in Lions Park, as shown in Figure 1. Furthermore, the advice of the experts was that the sculpture be mounted on a 1.2 metre high pedestal, that it be surrounded by gardens to make it less accessible and that a sign be erected advising visitors not to climb on the sculpture. According to the experts who reviewed the situation, this new location would mitigate the Town's liability.

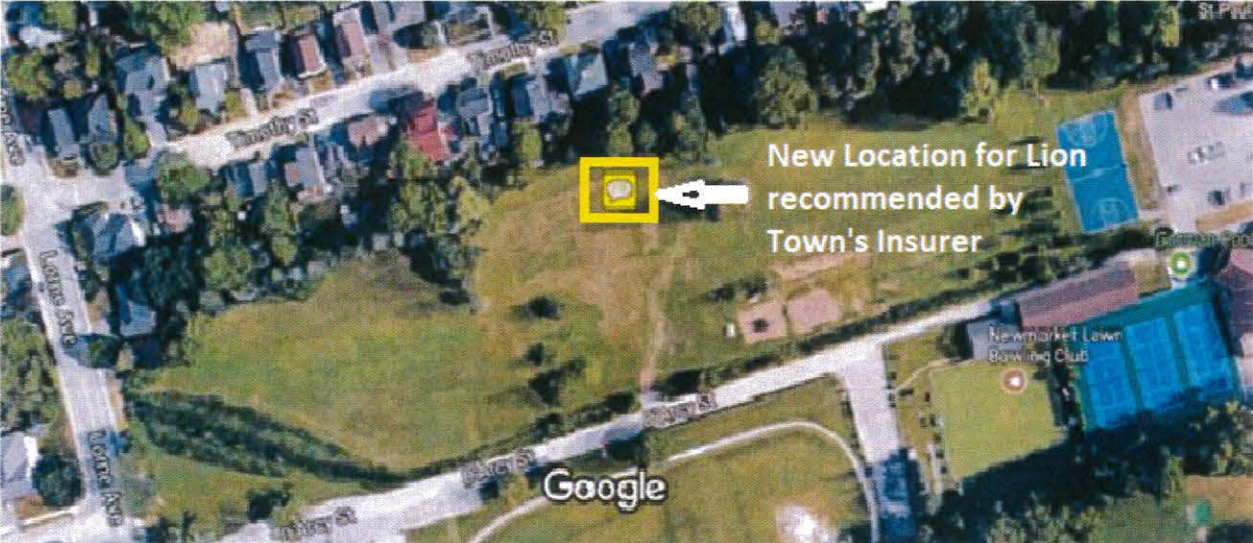
During the site visit to determine a new location for the sculpture, the Claims and Risk Analyst accompanied the Town's insurer to Riverwalk Commons to view a possible relocation to the rooftop of the Community Centre (Lions Hall). Although there were no major objections to this alternate location, there were some concerns expressed by the insurer about whether or not the roof structure would be able to support the weight of the sculpture. Because there was no structural analysis done by a qualified engineer to

determine if the roof structure would have the integrity and strength to support the weight of the sculpture, this location was not pursued further at the time. The insurer and Claims and Risk Analyst opted to recommend a location within Lions Park that was not too close to the playground, the school or the watercourse.

The email of March 2nd also informed Council that Engineering staff had met with the Lions Club on site to show them the new location, and that the Lions Club (who is paying for the sculpture as a legacy project to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International) was in agreement with the new location as shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1

New Location of Lion Sculpture Recommended by Claims and Risk Analyst, Insurance Company and External Counsel



Shortly after the email was sent, a member of Council expressed some concern about the new location being too close to the rear property lines of the homes along Timothy Street, and that staff reconsider the option of locating the sculpture on the roof of the Community Centre. Some benefits of relocating to the Community Centre roof are that this location would offer more visibility and would benefit the broader community instead of just those visiting Lions Park, and that it would keep the lion out of reach of children without having to elevate the sculpture onto a 1.2 metre pedestal. The location that was suggested is shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 2
New Location Being Suggested



Discussion

To date, \$5,800 has been spent this past fall and winter for the consultant to visit the site to determine the slope and soil conditions of the new location, to verify the measurements of the lion's contact area with the base, and to prepare detailed designs and drawings for the 1.2 metre high base and the surrounding gardens. Staff has temporarily suspended further work on the relocation until the alternate location at the Community Centre could be explored further.

Staff will proceed to explore the new location with the Lions Club first to see if they would be amenable to moving the sculpture to the Community Centre (Lions Hall). If the Club is willing to consider the change, staff would then hire a structural engineer to conduct an assessment of the Community Centre roof to determine if it can support the weight and configuration of the sculpture through differing seasonal and windy conditions. The structural assessment is expected to cost anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,500.

If the existing roof cannot support the sculpture, the consultant would provide an estimate of the cost of modifications that would render the roof capable of supporting the lion. Staff would then evaluate the costs and advise Council on the preferred location for the lion to be moved. The insurer would be advised of the change either way for final comments.

Conclusion

If Council has no objection, staff will proceed to explore the roof of the Community Centre (Lions Hall) as a new location for the lion sculpture. Additional costs estimated to be between \$4,000 and \$7,500 would be incurred for a qualified structural engineer to assess the structural integrity of the roof to determine if it can support the sculpture. The engineer would also provide recommendations for any upgrades required, along with estimates of the cost to make the roof capable of supporting the sculpture. Staff would consider these estimates, along with the incurred cost of \$5,800 that has already been spent to design a base and garden for the previously selected location., to compare with the budget remaining in the Lions Park Capital Budget in making a final decision on the location of the sculpture. The insurer's opinion and the benefits to the community would also be considered in making the decision.

Business Plan and Strategic Plan Linkages

This report links to Newmarket's Strategic Plan direction, Well Planned & Connected, by working with the Lions Club and by exploring additional options that will serve a broader segment of the population.

Consultation

No consultation required. However, if the sculpture will be going in the original location as shown in Figure 1, Staff will advise the abutting property owners of the plans to move the sculpture.

Human Resource Considerations

Not applicable to this report.

Budget Impact

Operating Budget – No operating budget impact

Capital Budget –Additional cost estimated to be between \$4,000 and \$7,500 are to be incurred for a structural analysis of the roof at the Community Centre to see if it can support the weight and configuration of the sculpture. These costs would be borne by the Town. There is sufficient budget remaining in the Lions Park Capital Budget to cover these costs.

Attachments

None

Contact

For more information regarding this report, please contact Rachel Prudhomme, Director, Engineering Services, at 905-953-5300, press "2", then extension 2500 or rprudhomme@newmarket.ca

Approval



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